



**Testimony of Chris VanDeHoef before the Planning and Development Committee
on February 13, 2015 in opposition to SB 27, An Act Prohibiting the Internet
Publication of Voter Information**

Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila and members of the Government, Administration and Elections Committee my name is Chris VanDeHoef. I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Daily Newspapers Association (CDNA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today **in opposition to SB 27, An Act Prohibiting the Internet Publication of Voter Information.**

It's my understanding that SB 27 seeks to prevent and prohibit a scam that has become more prevalent in recent months where people are purchasing voter files, uploading them to the internet and then requiring payment to remove the information. CDNA certainly thinks this practice is appalling and applauds Sen. Doyle and Rep. Guerrera for proposing a bill seeking to stop that practice. Unfortunately SB 27 goes too far in prohibiting the publication of otherwise important information.

Additionally, as drafted, CDNA believes that SB 27 is a violation of the First Amendment of the US Constitution and Article 1, Section 5 of the Connecticut Constitution as it would seek to restrain the freedom of the press. CDNA can comprehend instances where information contained within a voter file (an otherwise public document) would be beneficial to a story or provide information concerning voter registrations, etc

As written, CDNA opposes the measure and is more than happy to work with the proponents to draft legislation that achieves the stopping of posting of information for payment.

Thank you for your time.

Chris VanDeHoef
CT Daily Newspaper's Association
Executive Director